

The lives so young, war's lingering ebon
fray,
Delivers them a shrouded throne, and solemn
biers,
Can we not dream that those we loved are
here?

Beckon them all in memory, as the vine
Whose tangled stems have long untwined
The crystal pillars, and clasp around
The sunken urns, the forlorn sounds;
With mournful message to our brothers, re-
sign,
Tried and true, and close the broken line.

OLE MISS HOSTING FIRING LINE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, Senator COCHRAN and I are pleased to announce that the University of Mississippi, which we fondly refer to as Ole Miss, will be hosting the final broadcast of the Emmy-winning PBS program "Firing Line." Senator COCHRAN and I want to join the University of Mississippi in congratulating all those affiliated with "Firing Line," including its host, Mr. William F. Buckley, Jr., and its producer, Mr. Warren Steibel, for their outstanding accomplishments during 34 years of telecasts. Since 1966, Mr. Buckley and Mr. Steibel have given the American public an opportunity to make informed decisions on the important topics of the day by bringing all angles of an issue to the surface through their lively debates. No public affairs program in history has run longer with the same host.

Firing Line has brought a wide range of topics to the forefront since joining the PBS family on May 26, 1971, including "Separation of Church and State," "Is Socialism Dead," "Health Risks in a Nuclear Environment," and its final topic, "The Government Should Not Impose a Tax on Electronic Commerce." These and other topics have been debated by Presidents George Bush, Ronald Reagan, Jimmy Carter, Gerald Ford, and Richard Nixon; and prominent figures such as Margaret Thatcher, Muhammad Ali, Henry Kissinger, and Bob Dole.

Mr. President, the past decade has brought many references to the end of the millennium. It is a tribute to programs of its kind that "Firing Line" leaves the airways at this historic time. The guests, topics, and fervor with which the issues have been approached throughout the years on the program define the culture of the day. All attitudes and opinions have been expressed and analyzed, reflecting our society's nature to embrace conflict and discourse in the name of answers and truth. William F. Buckley and Warren Steibel created an educational art form that did as much teaching as any other television program in memory.

This final telecast also marks the fourth time that the University of Mississippi has hosted the "Firing Line" program. This relationship began with "Firing Line's" first visit to Oxford in

1989, and continued with its return in 1992, 1997, and now in 1999. Firing Line and Ole Miss have blended well over the years because of their commitment to furthering knowledge and challenging individuals to constantly expand their thinking. The University of Mississippi's growing impact across the world in the realms of politics, economics, social issues, technology and leadership make it a fitting backdrop for the closure of "Firing Line's" award-winning run.

TATANKA HOTSHOT CREW

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure today to recognize the members of the Tatanka Hotshot Crew of the Black Hills National Forest in South Dakota. This fall marks the end of the first fire season that this crew has been operational, and I am delighted to say that it has proven to be an outstanding success.

Each year serious wildfires threaten national forests across the United States, burning thousands of acres of woodlands and endangering private property. Our first line of defense against these fires is the United States Forest Service, whose firefighters risk their lives in arduous, often isolated conditions to bring wildfires under control.

The best of these teams are known as Hotshot crews—elite firefighters who are sent to the worst fires, to do the most difficult, dangerous work necessary to protect our forests and the homes of nearby residents. All around the country, these teams have been recognized for their skill and bravery.

Last year, we created the first of these elite teams ever to be based in the Black Hills National Forest. It is called the Tatanka Hotshots, after the Lakota word for the bison that used to roam the Great Plains by the tens of thousands. The nearly two dozen members of this team, virtually all of whom are Native American, come from diverse backgrounds. Some came from South Dakota towns like Custer and Aberdeen. Some joined the Tatanka crew from other hotshot teams or elite smokejumping units. Others are veterans of the Gulf War. Still others are young individuals working their way through college. I am proud to say that after a year of intense training and working together, the Tatanka team quickly has become one of the most highly-regarded firefighting teams in the nation.

In addition to work in the Black Hills, the Tatanka crew spent 71 days away on wildland fire assignments, accumulating 1,550 hours of work in Colorado, Wyoming, Montana and California. It conducted seven large firing/burnout operations, built miles of fireline, constructed helispots and medivac sites, and conducted large tree falling operations in steep, hazardous

terrain. Other noteworthy accomplishments included backpacking 6,500 pounds of sandbags up Mount Rushmore to prepare for the July 4th fireworks display, tending the commemorative crosses at the 1994 South Canyon fire fatality sites in Colorado, and working in conjunction with the Tahoe Hotshots to rescue a pack horse which had fallen off a mountain trail in California.

Over the course of the summer, the Tatanka crew earned its reputation as a team that could be depended upon to get its job done quickly and effectively. Based upon its outstanding performance ratings and the respect it earned from other highly regarded Hotshot crews, Forest Service officials expect the team to attain National Type 1 status—the highest rating a firefighting team can receive—before the 2000 fire season, a full year ahead of schedule.

Mr. President, I am very proud of the accomplishments of this crew. Forest fires are dangerous and unpredictable, and fighting them is one of the most difficult, physically-exhausting jobs of which I know. Firefighters spend days deep in forests and far from possible help, digging fire lines and cutting trees to keep fires from spreading. In just one year, the Tatanka team has met these challenges head-on, and shown that it is equal to the toughest challenges our nation has to offer. I want to offer my congratulations to all of those who served on the team. I am sure that they will have an outstanding future.

OPPOSITION OF EFFORTS TO BLOCK THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE'S RECENT ENFORCEMENT ACTION

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to speak briefly about an issue which has surfaced recently in the national press, and now arises with regard to the remaining appropriations bills before us. On November 3rd, the Justice Department filed seven lawsuits on behalf of EPA against electric utility companies in the Midwest and South. The lawsuit charged that 17 power plants illegally polluted the air by failing to install pollution control equipment when they were making major modifications to their plants. This action is one of the largest enforcement investigations in EPA's history, and seeks to control pollution which contributes to degraded air quality throughout the Northeast. I have recently learned that some of the defendants may be seeking relief from this enforcement action by adding a rider to one of the remaining appropriations bills. I am speaking with my colleagues here today in strong opposition to this effort. To seek relief for pending violations of federal law through a rider without any congressional hearing, debate, or voting